

For Immediate Release  
February 13, 2006

Contact: Ari B. Adler  
517-373-5886

## **Senate to Vote on Stopping Governor from Penalizing Non-Union Businesses**

*House of Representatives gearing up to address issue as well*

**Lansing** - The state Senate on Tuesday intends to approve legislation to stop the Granholm administration from instituting administrative rules aimed at penalizing non-union businesses in Michigan.

“The proposed rules are bad policy - they are bad for job providers, bad for the economy and bad for Michigan,” said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. “As the Jackson Citizen-Patriot said in a recent editorial: ‘This sort of rules-making, detached from economic reality, is just what the state doesn’t need.’”

Senate Bills 1026-1030 were prompted by a rule change being considered by the state Department of Human Services for 5,000 Adult Foster Care and Home for the Aged businesses. The rules establish onerous new regulations that can most easily be met by providing union representation for a facility’s employees.

“New mandates and regulations from Lansing will only compound the struggles facing job providers in Michigan,” said House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Novi. “This kind of bureaucratic meddling is what’s causing too many businesses to locate in neighboring states.”

The House is gearing up to address the bills in committee as they come over from the Senate.

If these rules are promulgated, Michigan would be the most highly regulated state for assisted living facilities. It’s been estimated that the rules could cost the industry \$35 million per year.

The Detroit News recently editorialized on the issue, writing, “‘The last thing Michigan needs is another unfunded state mandate that adds to its anti-business climate. If Gov. Jennifer Granholm really wants to help businesses, workers, seniors and the disabled, she will kill these rules before they devastate the state.’”

Sikkema agreed with the News, noting, “The governor says she will go anywhere and do anything to keep jobs in Michigan. Well, she needs to go to her departments and deliver a clear message that job-killing rules are unacceptable.”

###